

Remarks/Arguments

Claims 1, 4-11, 13-15, and 19 remain in the application. Claims 2, 3, 12, and 16-18 are canceled. Claims 1, 4, 13-15, and 19 are currently amended.

Telephone Interview Summary

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner and the Supervisory Examiner for conducting the telephone interview of March 28, 2007. A complete and proper recordation of the substance of the telephone interview is provided, as follows:

- a) No exhibits were shown nor was any demonstration conducted.
- b) Claim 1 was discussed.
- c) The cited references already made of record, US Patent 5,052,879 in the name of Wolfe, and US Patent 4,573,854 in the name of McFarland were discussed during the telephone interview.
- d) Regarding the Examiner's rejection of claim 1 for being unpatentable over Wolfe in view of McFarland, Applicant argued, in light of a Declaration Under 37 CFR 1.132 filed November 27, 2006, that the teachings of Wolfe and McFarland cannot be combined, reiterating the arguments provided in the previous telephone interview of September 12, 2006 and in the communication filed November 27, 2006.
- e) No agreement could be reached. The Examiner and the Supervisory Examiner reiterated that, even considered in light of the Declaration Under 37 CFR 1.132 filed November 27, 2006, claim 1 is obvious over the above references.
- f) No other pertinent matters were discussed.

Re: Item I - Specification

The Examiner stated that the listing of references in the specification is not a proper Information Disclosure Statement.

Applicant has submitted the references listed in the section “Background of the Invention” of the disclosure in an Information Disclosure Statement filed concurrently herewith. It is noted that, in addition to a printout of the webpage for the reference “4300-BP Backpacker Inside Lift”, cited in the disclosure, Applicant has submitted a copy of the corresponding US Patent Application 2001/0026756 by Mortimore published Oct. 4, 2001.

Applicant reiterates that these references merely describe background art considered to be not material to the invention as disclosed and claimed. Considering the short description of these references in the “Background of the Invention”, it is evident that these references do not teach anything similar to the invention as disclosed and claimed, but: hoists or cranes; ramp systems; and a lift arm placed in the center of the rear portion of a vehicle.

Re: Item II - Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Claims 1-11, and 15-17 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a), as being unpatentable over Wolfe (US Patent 5,052,879) in view of McFarland (US 4,573,854).

Applicant has amended claim 1 to include the feature of dependent claim 12 - deemed allowable by the Examiner - and the features of intervening claims 2 and 3.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that amended claim 1 is allowable.

Dependent claims 2, 3, and 12 have been canceled.

Applicant has amended claims 4, 13, and 14 for the dependencies to reflect the cancellation of claims 2, 3, and 12.

Applicant respectfully submits that each of claims 4-11, 13, and 15 depend on a claim that is believed to be allowable and as such are also allowable.

Applicant has amended independent claim 15 to include the feature of dependent claim 18 - deemed allowable by the Examiner - and the features of intervening claims 16 and 17.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that amended claim 15 is allowable.

Dependent claims 16, 17, and 18 have been canceled.

Applicant has amended claim 19 for the dependency to reflect the cancellation of claims 16, 17, and 18.

No new subject matter has been added.

Re: Item III - Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for indicating the allowability of claims 12-14 and 18-19 if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant has amended independent claims 1 and 15 to include the features of claims 12 and 18 and any intervening claims, respectively.

Applicant looks forward to receiving favourable consideration of the instant application.

A Petition for Extension of Time is filed concurrently with this response.

**Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit
Account No. 50-1142.**

Respectfully submitted,

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**Encls. Petition for Extension of Time
Information Disclosure Statement**

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